



Long Term Care Coordinating Council  
**Alzheimer's State Plan Work Group**  
*Professional Workforce Training Task Force*  
February 6, 2014  
Rhode Island Quality Institute  
50 Holden St. Suite 300  
Providence, RI 02908

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Donna Leong  
Amanda Clarke  
Darlene Kershaw

Marge Angilly  
Laurie Johnson  
Andrew Powers

Leslie Jackson  
Faith Sands

**6) Welcome and introductions**

Donna Leong called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Many people are drawn to the Alzheimer's State Plan meetings because of their strong personal connection to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Andrew Powers, the Chief Health Program Evaluator of the Rhode Island Department of Health, directed this meeting.

**7) Review of the Last Meeting**

Donna began the meeting with a review of the previous meetings, which discussed the Alzheimer's State Plan and its recommendations for updated dementia care unit definitions.

**8) Current Dementia Care Unites Regulations**

Andrew began with a discussion of the Department of Health Regulation Development Process. The catalyst for change regarding this process could be (1) a change in statute, or (2) an initiation of the process by the Director of the Department of Health. Then, there is the beginning of the writing process by program level staff. The Rules Committee,

consisting of the Director, the Chief of Staff, the Director's attorneys along with a few others reviews the draft and may or may not approve it for community review. After being approved, the draft is introduced to the community. Here, the Department received input and comment from any interested parties. The Department takes this input and makes any necessary revisions and puts the draft through the approval process once again. There is then a public hearing, in which the draft is presented to the public. Afterward, if the Director feels more edits are necessary, they will be made, requirement another hearing. If not, the draft will be presented to legislation.

The next topic discussed was the policies and procedures in current dementia care units. Included in this discussion were assistant living, nursing home, adult day care, and special care units. The primary note, which began the discussion, was the important factor that assistant living facilities are not, under law, considered healthcare facilities. Additionally, licensure in care units does not require any specific training for dementia care. There is only a need for general licensure. The requirements for these facilities are to only to disclose upon admittance the services the facility provide. In order to treat individuals with dementia, a unit must be F1 (In the event of a fire, residents do not need to be able to evacuate on their own) and Med. 1 (The staff administers medication). However, some facilities (i.e., assistant living) do not require public reporting. In Rhode Island, there are 30 nursing homes that indicate special care units. Annual inspections are required for these facilities. Currently, the Department of Health is unable to meet these requirements due to lack of means. At the end of 2013, fifteen facilities remained unchecked. Regarding this matter, the DOH first allocates its lacking resources to any facilities that have received complaints, typically coming from a resident's family members.

The final topic discussed was common issues and incidents that occur in dementia care units. It is common that those receiving care do not have the proper initiatives to complain and/or advocate for themselves. In most cases, it is a family member reporting it rather than the patient/resident themselves. Additionally, there is no requirement for administrators of a dementia care unit to received specialized training, causing gaps in the system.

The final notes of the discussion were that there is an apparent need for the state to come up with legislation in order to keep patients/residents with dementia safe, well protected and properly cared for. There is a draft of a statute due April 30, 2014. However, Andrew expressed doubt that the draft would be complete by the deadline.